

What is Claimed Is:

1. A fabric having a fabric caliper, said fabric comprising one or more guides made of a guide material attached to a wear surface of the fabric so  
5 to encapsulate approximately fifty percent or more of the fabric caliper with the guide material.
2. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said encapsulation is the primary mechanism that  
10 attaches the fabric and guide.
3. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is attached to the fabric by melting of the v-guide, to a sufficient depth, to encapsulate fifty  
15 percent or more of the fabric structure.
4. A fabric in accordance with claim 3, wherein the melted guide encapsulates the fabric so to create a composite upon solidification.  
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5. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein a bond strength between the fabric and the guide is equal to the tear strength of either the fabric or the guide material alone.  
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6. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fabric is of a construction taken from the group consisting essentially of woven, or nonwoven, such as spiral-link, MD or CD yarn arrays, knitted, extruded  
30 mesh, or material strips which are ultimately spiral wound to form a substrate having a width greater than a width of the strips.

7. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fabric is permeable or impermeable.
8. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the  
5 fabric comprises metal, synthetic, or natural filaments, fibers or yarns.
9. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is one of meltable thermoplastic, extrudable  
10 thermoplastic, or a thermoset.
10. A fabric in accordance with claim 9, wherein crosslinking of the thermoset is achieved by at least one of room temperature, UV, moisture, or heat.  
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11. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is a cross-linkable polymer with sufficient viscosity to maintain its shape during a curing process.  
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12. A fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein crosslinking is achieved by at least one of room temperature, UV, moisture, or heat.
- 25 13. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is meltable thermoplastic impregnated into the fabric under pressure while using a shaped pulley to maintain guide dimensions.
- 30 14. A belt in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide is substantially v-shaped.

15. A fabric in accordance with claim 14, wherein the v-guide has one of a flat, hi-ridged and ribbed top.
- 5 16. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said fabric with attached guides is used as a belt in industrial applications.
- 10 17. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said fabric comprises two guides at respective edges of the fabric.
- 15 18. A fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein a fabric has a top surface coating that encapsulates approximately fifty percent or less of the fabric caliper.
- 20 19. A fabric in accordance with claim 18, wherein a coating thickness above a surface plane of the fabric is in the range of 0 to 4 mm.
- 25 20. A fabric in accordance with claim 18, wherein the coating comprises one of polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, silicone rubber, and synthetic rubber.
- 30 21. A fabric in accordance with claim 20, wherein said synthetic rubber is one of nitrile and styrene butadiene rubber.
22. A fabric in accordance with claim 18, wherein stuffers are used to control the depth of penetration of the coating.

23. A fabric in accordance with claim 22, wherein said stuffers are rectangular.